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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1653

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.			
Typed or Printed Name	Kimberly W. Zuehlke		
Signature	<i>Kimberly W Zuehlke</i>	Date	28 February 2001

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP 1653 Address to: Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket	CONN-015DIV
	First Named Inventor	Christian Schwabe et al.
	Application Number	09/041,491
	Filing Date	March 12, 1998
	Group Art Unit	1653
	Examiner Name	A. Gupta
	Title	RELAXIN-LIKE FACTOR AND METHODS OF USES THEREOF

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated December 6, 2000 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before March 6, 2000. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 25-28 from the application without prejudice and amend claim 21 as shown on the attached mark-up copy of claim 21. Amended claim 21 with the amendments as shown on the mark-up copy is provided below along with dependent claims 22-24 which remain unamended.

21. (Amended) A method of decreasing collagen synthesis, comprising:
administering to cells of a human expressing relaxin receptors, synthetic relaxin like factor; and
allowing the relaxin like factor to contact the receptors for a period of time and under conditions such that the receptors are activated, and collagen synthesis is decreased;
the relaxin like factor comprising an A chain and a B chain,
said A chain having the amino acid sequence:
Ala-Ala-Ala-Thr-Asn-Pro-Ala-Arg-Tyr-Cys-Cys-Leu-Ser-Gly-Cys-Thr-Gln-Gln-Asp-Leu-Leu-Thr-Leu-Cys-Pro-Tyr (SEQ ID NO:3)
or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) truncated by up to about 6 amino acids from the N-

Do not enter
At 3/9/01